

# news galleryweek

November 3, 2021

## 27th annual Excellence in Education Awards held this morning



This morning at the Visalia Convention Center, 28 exceptional Tulare County educators and school employees were honored at the 27th annual Excellence in Education Awards – an event co-hosted by EECU. The nominees were submitted by Tulare County school districts and the Tulare County Office of Education in three categories – Administrator/Manager of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and School Employee of the Year. A committee of Tulare County business and educational leaders individually reviewed and scored each nominee to determine the winners, who were announced in May.

At the conclusion of the event, the category winners posed with Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire (above right). The winners were (left to right) School Employee of the Year Jeff Lemos (Tulare County Office of Education), Teacher of the Year Manuela Silveira (Tulare County Office of Education), and Administrator/Manager of the Year Michael Akins (retired, Dinuba Unified School District).

"It was great to gather in person today to honor these exemplary educators," Hire said. "These men and women – regardless of their roles and responsibilities – have shown tremendous leadership, finding solutions to every challenge. Whether it's addressing the unique needs of a student with special needs or creating a districtwide plan to deliver technology to students during distance learning, this year's honorees represent Tulare County in the best possible way."

To read more about the nominees, finalists, and winners, and to see the video created about the winners, visit [tcoe.org/ExcellenceInEducation](http://tcoe.org/ExcellenceInEducation).

*Photo above:*  
~ Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire addresses attendees at the 27th annual Excellence in Education Awards breakfast ceremony.



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## Tickets available for the production of Disney's *The Lion King Jr.*



Journey through the African savannah with Simba as he overcomes his fears and becomes the king of Pride Rock in the Theatre Company's production of Disney's *The Lion King, Jr.*

The musical will be performed outdoors November 17-20 at the Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center amphitheater in Visalia. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. shows. Tickets for the four performances are now available at the receptionist desk of the Mooney Building at 6200 S. Mooney Blvd., Visalia and in the Educational Resource Services library at the Doe Avenue complex, 7000 Doe Ave., Visalia. Tickets may also be purchased by phone by calling (559) 651-3041. The cost of admission is \$15 for general seating and \$10 for picnic seating.

"We are thrilled to be hosting a live theatre event after such a long wait!" said co-director and choreographer Nicole Zweifel. "We are proud of the virtual work we have done during the pandemic and have met many new performers during the process. But nothing can replace the thrill of a live performance. It is why our company exists!"

Zweifel, who will retire next month, joined the young Theatre Company as a part-time choreographer in 1999. In 2001, she became the company's full-time choreographer. "One of Nicole's many strengths is her ability to work magic with students through movement and dance in the widest range of musical styles – from quiet, ethereal productions such as *The Secret Garden* to large, raucous shows such as *West Side Story*," said Bethany Rader, Theatre Company director. "Her expertise has been one of the reasons Theatre Company shows look as professional as any adult company."

*The Lion King Jr.* is based on the 1994 animated musical film *The Lion King*, which won two Golden Globes and two Academy Awards. The production tells the story of the lion cub, Simba, who deserts the throne after believing his father's death was his fault. Living in the jungle with his new friends, Timon and Pumbaa, Simba is reminded that he is the rightful heir and returns home to save Pride Rock.

For more information about *Lion King Jr.*, call the Theatre Company at (559) 651-1482 or visit [tcoe.org/TheatreCo](http://tcoe.org/TheatreCo).

### **SCHEDULE OF PERFORMANCES**

Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center Amphitheater  
31191 Road 180 in east Visalia

#### **Show Times**

Evening shows (7:00 p.m.): November 17, 18, 19, 20

#### **Show Ticket Information**

\$15 general admission / \$10 picnic seating  
Now available at Visalia TCOE locations:  
6200 S. Mooney Blvd. and 7000 Doe Ave.  
Monday through Friday during normal business hours  
Cash, check, or credit cards accepted  
Tickets may also be purchased by phone by calling (559) 651-3041.

### **PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS**

**Banzai** – Sarah Johnson, 12th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center  
**Ed** – Dean Johnson, 9th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center  
**Mufasa** – Rahim Pullom, 12th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center  
**Nala** – Kylie Schieferle, 11th grade, Redwood High School  
**Pumbaa** – Caitlin Plumlee, 10th grade, Harmony Magnet Academy  
**Rafiki** – Angelina Nichols, 10th grade, Redwood High School  
**Sarabi** – Rivka Sears, 12th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center  
**Sarafina** – Katie Peters, 10th grade, Redwood High School  
**Scar** – Katherine Gonzales, 10th grade, Redwood High School  
**Shenzi** – Elle Pinheiro, 8th grade, Sundale Union School  
**Simba** – Leo Paez, 8th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center  
**Timon** – Ruth Espinoza, 9th grade, Homeschool  
**Young Nala** – Abby Nelson, 6th grade, Homeschool  
**Young Simba** – Carter Sullivan, 4th grade, St. Paul's School  
**Zazu** – Zion Sears, 9th grade, Eleanor Roosevelt Community Learning Center

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## **Foster Youth Services to hold two-day education summit**

TCOE's Foster and Homeless Youth Services Program will be hosting its annual Education Summit November 29 and 30. Social workers and educators in all school settings are invited to attend the two-day event, which will feature keynote speakers Dr. Adolph Brown on November 29 and Max Stossel on November 30. An in-person cost of poverty experience will be offered to attendees during the afternoon sessions both days.

### Keynote Presenters

**Dr. Adolph Brown III** is an American businessman, author, urban and rural school educator, research scientist, and keynote speaker. Dr. Brown is best known for inspiring all who hear him to learn, laugh, and lead, while as an implicit bias speaker simultaneously reducing unconscious bias at every turn. Dr. Brown knows that understanding structural inequities is only the start, however dismantling the foundations from which these structures are built leads to solutions.



Dr. Brown credits much of his success to the luxury of humble beginnings, being reared by a single-parent mother in abject poverty of the inner city housing projects infested with gangs, drugs, and violence. He became the first in his family of five to participate in Head Start, graduate high school, and attend college.

Dr. Brown is the author of acclaimed books, including the international mental wellness best seller, *Two Backpacks*. Other best sellers authored by Dr. Brown include a business soft skills classic, *Championship Habits*, and the education classic, *Real Talk*. He is also the co-author with his third grade teacher of a children's book, *It's Gonna Be A Great Day!*

**Max Stossel** is an award-winning artist and the youth and education advisor for the Center for Humane Technology (CHT), an organization of former tech insiders dedicated to realigning technology with humanity (as featured in *The Social Dilemma* on Netflix). Before working with CHT, Stossel was a media strategist with an extensive background in social, running social media for multinational brands, and later working for a social media company where he designed some of the notification structures to distract people that he now raises awareness about.



Stossel spent the past five years speaking with 100,000+ students, parents, and educators around the world about social media's impact on our lives, and creating resources to help manage that impact. Stossel provides a unique and much-needed perspective on the role of technology in our homes, schools, and in our society.

To register for this free event, visit [whova.com/portal/registration/fahes\\_202111](https://whova.com/portal/registration/fahes_202111).

For more information, contact Beth Wilshire, Foster Youth Services coordinator, at [bethw@tcoe.org](mailto:bethw@tcoe.org) or call (559) 730-2910, ext. 5131.



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## TCOE hosts drive-thru Red Ribbon Celebration



Last week, the Tulare County Office of Education's CHOICES Program partnered with the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency to host the 12th annual Tulare County Red Ribbon Celebration. It was a drive-thru event that saw an estimated 200 vehicles receive resources and information on how to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

A total of 30 vendors were on hand, including the Visalia Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Office, California Highway Patrol, United Way, Visalia Unified School District, and many others. Resources, goodie bags, candy, and free Red Ribbon t-shirts featuring the theme "Drug Free Looks Like Me!" were available to those who came to the event.



"Red Ribbon Week has become one of the most visible prevention awareness campaigns observed annually," said CHOICES Program specialist Alisha Montoya. "It gives an opportunity for schools, organizations, and communities to make a visible stand against alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, and to show their commitment to a drug-free lifestyle through the symbol of the red ribbon."

Attendees had a great time driving through while listening to music from the booths of HITS 104.9 and 106.7 KJUG.

"Personally, with this being our first ever drive-thru event, I was pleasantly surprised with the abundance of attendance from parents, students, school staff, and hearing how enjoyable the evening was to them," Montoya said. "We look forward to next year's event!"

*Photos above:*

*~ The annual Red Ribbon Celebration was held last Thursday. Toward the end of the event, children were able to visit the United Way resource booth and take pictures of several emergency response vehicles.*

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## Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards honors Kids of Character



The outstanding character of thousands of students in Tulare County was recognized in late October, culminating in the 2021 Kids of Character Provident-Salierno Family Foundation Awards last Wednesday. The event recognized the top six students and 24 finalists featured during the Tulare County CHARACTER COUNTS! Week Celebration from October 18-23.

As students arrived at the TCOE Mooney Building, they were presented with a certificate, t-shirt, yard sign that read "A Student of Character Lives Here," and a scholarship provided by long-time character education supporters Tony and Mary Salierno. Students were also able to take pictures in front of CHARACTER COUNTS! backdrops with their families and nominators.



Since 2012, the Saliernos have partnered with the CHARACTER COUNTS! Program to provide annual scholarships for the top students and finalists representing each of the Pillars of Character – Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. The honorees and finalists were chosen from more than 4,800 Kids of Character nominees received from 148 schools.

“Thank you to everyone who attended last week’s event held for all of our amazing students of character,” said CHARACTER COUNTS! coordinator Kelley Petty. “We have so many great role models in our community, and we are thankful that we could recognize them with the support of Tony and Mary Salierno and the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*.”

Throughout CHARACTER COUNTS! Week, the top six students and 24 finalists were also recognized daily in the *Visalia Times-Delta/Tulare Advance-Register*. In Saturday’s paper, a two-page ad also showcased 148 Kids of Character from across the county.

To view a complete list of the 2021 Kids of Character, visit [tcoe.org/KidsOfCharacter](http://tcoe.org/KidsOfCharacter).

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## Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
- [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
- [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

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To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit [tcoe.org/GetTheGallery](http://tcoe.org/GetTheGallery), or contact Jennifer Fisher at [jenniferf@tcoe.org](mailto:jenniferf@tcoe.org) or (559) 733-6172.